

Cath Petroskey

From: Anne Honhart <ahonhart@atlaswelding.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2012 6:01 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Subject: Strong Opposition to SB 1236 - bear cub handling by the public
Attachments: DWA_factsheet_SB 1236_bear cub handling_MI.pdf; 2012-11-01_DWA_bear incidents_SB 1236_bear cub handling_MI.pdf; Michigan_SB 1236_captive bear issues.pdf

November 7, 2012

RE: Strong opposition to SB 1236 – bear cub handling

Dear Cath Petroskey,

Please forward on my objection to SB 1236, to the members of the House Agriculture Committee. This bill would allow captive bear cubs to be handled by the public.

I cannot believe that this bill is being considered. I personally supported the passage of the Large Carnivore Act legislation through the Michigan Humane Society back in 2000. This is in direct conflict with the Large Carnivore Act which explicitly stopped the purchase of large cats and bears by the public and the interaction of young carnivores with the public. There was a sensible reason for the act and it should NOT be weakened.

To allow the handling of bear cubs by the public has resulted in physical harm to children and adults alike. It also perpetuates the breeding of captive bear cubs to display which is disturbingly like a puppy mill. And the adult bears which are not as docile and cuddly are kept in unnatural and often miserable conditions for the rest of their lives. You only have to look at the attachments above to witness the problems with public bear cub handling. Neither the public nor the bears deserve this.

This is both an inhumane and dangerous practice and would be a thoughtless roll back on the Large Carnivore Act. There is no merit or justification in "creating jobs" that have such a dangerous history and ultimately negative consequences on the public and the bears. Please soundly reject this thoughtless, frivolous bill. Your time and our tax dollars are better spent on bills of more consequence than this.

Sincerely,

Anne Honhart
197 E. Frank Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
Member of the Michigan Humane Society for 20 years